



State of Louisiana
Office of the Governor
Office of State Inspector General

Memorandum

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From: Stephen B. Street, Jr.
Louisiana State Inspector General

Date: July 20, 2016

Re: HCR 25 -- 2016 Regular Session

In response to the Urge and Request outlined in House Concurrent Resolution 25 of the 2016 Regular Session, the Office of State Inspector General (OIG) respectfully responds as follows:

OIG has statewide jurisdiction and a statutory mandate to investigate, detect and prevent fraud, corruption, waste and abuse. Since 2008, the office has been extraordinarily productive, working numerous successful criminal cases and consistently exceeding the amount of its budget on an annual basis. Detailed information on this was provided in multiple budget hearings in the Special and Regular Sessions.

In the last two budget cycles, OIG has experienced a loss of four investigative staff positions. This amounts to a 23.5% staff reduction. From an initial T.O. of 17, OIG's budget now has funding to fill only 13 of those positions. House Bill 1 of the 2016 Regular Session contained a 20% cut (over \$400,000) to an already lean OIG budget. We have further sustained multiple mid-year reductions to operating expenses, and survived two efforts to completely defund the office in spite of its proven productivity. This budget instability has made it extremely difficult for OIG to retain highly experienced law enforcement personnel, and had a profound and negative impact on our ability to work corruption cases.

We are already operating below baseline funding levels. In short, there are no more efficiency measures that have not already been implemented by OIG.

It is respectfully submitted that the best way to achieve maximum efficiency of government operations is to fund OIG sufficiently to allow it to properly carry out its statutory mandate to investigate, detect and prevent fraud and corruption in Louisiana.